

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00365 251111Z
ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6828
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0365

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK, MZ
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: MACHEL'S REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN
CONTACTING MUZOREWA

REF: LONDON 3052,

1. HELEN KITCHEN RELUCTANTLY CONCLUDED SHE COULD NOT UNDERTAKE THE MISSION OF MESSENGER FOR MACHEL IN CONTACTING MUZOREWA.
2. WE LOCATED MS. KITCHEN IN JOHANNESBURG YESTERDAY, FEB. 24. SHE HAD JUST RETURNED FROM RHODESIA THE DAY BEFORE AND WAS PREPARING TO LEAVE FOR RETURN TO THE US THAT EVENING. DCM MET WITH HER IN THE AFTERNOON TO EXPLAIN THE MISSION (PARA 3 REFTEL) AND TO CONVEY TO HER ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE'S HOPE SHE WOULD BE ABLE TO UNDERTAKE IT, EMPHASIZING, HOWEVER, THAT SHE SHOULD FEEL ABSOLUTELY NO OBLIGATION TO ACCEPT.
3. MS. KITCHEN CAREFULLY WEIGHED HER OWN TIGHT
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PAGE 02 CAPE T 00365 251111Z

SCHEDULE AND THE UNCERTAINTY ABOUT HOW LONG IT WOULD TAKE TO COMPLETE THE MISSION. SHE WAS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT HOW TO EXPLAIN A LAST MINUTE DECISION TO DELAY HER RETURN TO THE US AND A REAPPEARANCE SO SOON IN RHODESIA. IN THE END, MS. KITCHEN REGRETFULLY CONCLUDED SHE COULD NOT UNDERTAKE THE TASK. THE DECISION WAS A DIFFICULT ONE FOR HER; SHE OBVIOUSLY WOULD VERY MUCH HAVE LIKED TO DO IT.

4. AS AN ALTERNATIVE, I WOULD LIKE TO REVIVE THE SUGGESTION I MADE IN NEW YORK THAT ANGLO-AMERICAN EXECUTIVE ALEX BORAINÉ BE USED. BORAINÉ PERIODICALLY TRAVELS IN BLACK AFRICA WHERE HE IS WELL CONNECTED AND WELL RECEIVED. HIS APPEARANCE IN MOZAMBIQUE AND RHODESIA WOULD NOT BE UNUSUAL. HE OFTEN GOES TO RHODESIA AND WE AND EMBASSY MAPUTO RECENTLY ASSISTED IN PAVING THE WAY FOR HIM IN ARRANGING A TRIP TO MAPUTO. HE IS AN ORDAINED METHODIST MINISTER AND IS WELL KNOWN TO MUZOREWA. WE HAVE EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH BORAINÉ AND COULD APPROACH HIM IN THE MATTER IF AMB. DE PREE HAS NO OBJECTION AND DEPARTMENT WANTS US TO FOLLOW THIS ROUTE. BOWDLER

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